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PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 36th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 22 July 1992, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. MROZIEWICZ (Poland)

CONTENTS

Special economic, humanitarian and disaster-relief assistance (continued)

(a) Special programmes of economic assistance (continued)

(b) Humanitarian assistance (continued)

(c) Disaster-relief assistance (continued)

Programme and related questions

Technical cooperation among developing countries as a modality in the formulation, preparation, execution and evaluation of the projects implemented by the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system in the economic, social and related fields (continued)

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

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The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

SPECIAL ECONOMIC, HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER-RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued) (A/47/283-E/1992/83, A/47/288-E/1992/94, A/47/291-E/1992/95)

(a) SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (continued)

(b) HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (continued)

(c) DISASTER-RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued)

Mr. SARDENBERG (Brazil) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77. The need for humanitarian assistance resulted from natural and man-made disasters as well as the shortcomings of international cooperation for economic and social development. Economic development led to greater political stability and enhanced preparedness to cope with natural disasters. That linkage must be kept in mind at all times. Brazil, which extended its solidarity to all the countries that suffered the effects of natural or man-made disasters, was saddened by the deterioration of the humanitarian situations in many parts of the world, particularly Africa. He strongly encouraged the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) to continue to focus attention on those situations to enable the United Nations to mobilize maximum support for humanitarian action.

He noted with satisfaction the various steps taken by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/182. It was encouraging to note that the central emergency revolving fund had begun functioning as an important mechanism to make United Nations humanitarian action more effective in the initial phase of emergencies. In that connection, it would be useful to learn whether there was a tentative operational definition of what constituted the "initial phase" of an emergency and whether the idea was to respond to a large number of emergency situations or to deal more effectively with a smaller number.

(Mr. Sardenberg, Brazil)

Humanitarian initiatives in conflict situations had highlighted the significance of, and need for, a distinction between political and humanitarian efforts. There had recently been a number of cases where humanitarian aid had been hindered with the clear intent of achieving political goals. In addition to being counterproductive, such behaviour violated international norms. His delegation would like to have more information on the working relationship between the New York office of DHA and the political and economic departments. The Under-Secretary-General might wish to share his thoughts about the ways in which the working relationship between DHA and the political departments had a bearing on the question of avoiding any form of politicization of activities and whether any measures had been envisaged to prevent that danger. Brazil was also very interested in obtaining information on the division of labour among the various Secretariat units in order to enhance coordination of United Nations humanitarian assistance. A clear assignment of responsibilities was desirable with regard to the question of obtaining access to emergency areas. It was his delegation's understanding that the Under-Secretary-General had the main responsibility for negotiating access for the delivery of humanitarian aid.

The availability of early-warning information was a crucial element in ensuring preparedness for emergencies. He inquired whether there were arrangements to ensure that all such information processed by the Secretariat was promptly made available to the countries concerned. Lastly, it would be useful to have more detailed information on the internal organization of the Department, particularly with regard to the relationship between the Geneva and New York offices. An organizational chart indicating levels, functions and responsibilities could be included in the report to be submitted to the General Assembly.

Mr. MUTHANA (Observer for Yemen) said that his country was grateful for the aid and support granted to the people and Government of Yemen by the United Nations agencies, especially during the current difficult and challenging period following reunification. Yemeni society at every level was firmly resolved to effect sweeping economic, social, political and administrative reforms. It realized that that would require sincere national

(Mr. Muthana, Observer, Yemen)

efforts as well as the mobilization of support so as to ensure the minimum conditions for success and prevent current economic and social difficulties from leading to further long-term structural deficiencies.

In addition, the Gulf crisis had resulted in the return of a particularly large number of Yemeni nationals from abroad, increasing the population by 7 per cent, while at the same time the rate of inflation had been 20 per cent (1991). Considering the country's many problems: the loss of its principal source of foreign currency; the abrupt decline in real income; the resulting burden of foreign loans, which had reached critical proportions; and an unprecedented unemployment rate of 40 per cent, Yemen was one of the countries that had suffered most from the war. In addition it was currently experiencing the worst drought of modern times and crowds of refugees continued to stream in daily from the Horn of Africa. All that had occurred at a time when its sources of foreign support had shrunk considerably. Furthermore, Yemen received no compensation for what it suffered as a result of the Gulf war or for the considerable humanitarian aid and services that it provided to the refugees.

The Government had done as much as it could with respect to reform efforts; further efforts would depend on the support and assistance it received from friendly States and organizations; moreover, in order for the reform measures already taken to bear fruit, basic economic problems such as unemployment, inflation and the balance-of-payments deficit had to be overcome or mitigated, and that, too, could be achieved only with outside support.

The reunification of Yemen was based on the principles of democratic choice, political and ideological diversity, the guaranteeing of human rights and liberties, and peace; moreover, its aims were to strengthen economic and cultural ties with the rest of the world, enhance the role of the private sector in development, consciously adopt market mechanisms and create dynamic competition.

Finally he appealed for prompt assistance to extend a helping hand for the victims of war and destruction both within Somalia and without.

Mr. VAN SCHAIK (Netherlands) said that he fully agreed that the international community must share responsibility for coping with the urgent emergency situations facing Governments and peoples in various parts of the world, and expressed full support for the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs. The issues which DHA addressed were important not only because of their humanitarian aspects but also because of the political implications of instability and insecurity. The Netherlands hoped that the Secretary-General would bear that in mind when deciding on the allocation of manpower resources to the Department. Constraints of such a practical nature should not prevent DHA from carrying out its functions fully and effectively.

The coordinating role of the Under-Secretary-General should also fully apply to the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and other parts of the former Yugoslavia. The Netherlands appreciated the role played by UNHCR as lead agency in the field and looked forward to the results of the conference to be held in Geneva at the end of the month. In view of the exceptional nature of the problems facing the international community in addressing that humanitarian situation, the Netherlands wished to know how the Under-Secretary-General viewed his own role and that of the Department in that area. It was his delegation's understanding that the Under-Secretary-General had the main responsibility for negotiating access for the delivery of humanitarian aid. Lastly, he stressed that the Department had a central role to play in the field of "humanitarian diplomacy" and needed the unwavering support of the Secretariat and all Member States.

Ms. FREUDENSCHUSS-REICH (Austria) said that Austria's overarching interest in the appointment of a high-level relief coordinator was that the United Nations capacity for providing a rapid and well-coordinated response to major and complex disasters should be enhanced. Coordination was crucial if the United Nations was to develop its humanitarian potential to the fullest. It was of course essential for Governments to adopt consistent positions in the various bodies concerned.

Austria shared the concern expressed by the representative of the United Kingdom regarding the adequacy of the human resources available to the

(Ms. Freudenschuss-Reich, Austria)

emergency coordinator, and would welcome more precise information regarding the duties and responsibilities of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs.

Her Government was pleased that the Central Emergency Revolving Fund, to which it had made a contribution, had become operational. It was an important tool for the coordinator, as it would enable him to react rapidly and to fast-emerging needs.

Austria welcomed the fact that the Department of Humanitarian Affairs had become the focal point for the collection, analysis and dissemination of early warning information on disasters and emergencies.

Her delegation would be interested to know when the system-wide review, referred to in document E/1991/79, to which the Council's attention had been drawn would be available for study.

In conclusion, she informed the Council that Austria had decided to allocate 5 million schillings to the UNHCR programme for refugees from Mozambique in Zimbabwe and 11 million schillings for water and sanitation projects in Mozambique. Five thousand tonnes of wheat would also be donated to Mozambique in the framework of the International Convention on Food Aid. That was in addition to the aid provided by private humanitarian organizations to countries in southern Africa.

Mr. ELIASSON (Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs) said that to date only one decision had been taken to use the Central Emergency Revolving Fund. That decision was to allocate $2 million for the situation in Kenya, which included the refugee situation between Somalia and Kenya. DHA was currently processing a second request from UNICEF relating to the situation in Somalia. The purpose of the Fund was to avoid time lags between the occurrence of emergency situations and the international response to appeals by the countries affected. It was too early to say how long the "initial phase" of an emergency situation was or how many days were to be covered by resources. The Department's role was to process requests made by the operational agencies. To date, only UNICEF had applied for funds. There were very strict rules stipulating that funds disbursed should be returned once a consolidated appeal had taken place. In some cases, that might have reduced the readiness of the agencies to apply for funds. There were also

(Mr. Eliasson)

many cases in which the prospects for obtaining funds through consolidated appeals were uncertain.

There was as yet no basis for determining whether the Department should respond to a large number of emergency cases or a smaller number. That would depend on how the agencies wished to use the Fund. In the case of Somalia and Yugoslavia, the problem was less one of resources than one of access and security. He met regularly with the two Under-Secretaries-General for Political Affairs and the Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations in order to discuss matters of common interest. Cooperation at the working level was also very good and mainly entailed an exchange of information rather than a discussion of policy options. He was very aware of the risk of politicizing humanitarian operations and stressed the importance of maintaining the humanitarian character and integrity of such operations in order to ensure success. Although successful humanitarian operations could have a positive general effect on developments in areas of conflict, that was just a side effect and should not be taken into consideration in the operations. Nevertheless, political and humanitarian questions were often intertwined. In discussing the situations in Somalia and Yugoslavia, the Security Council considered both the humanitarian dimensions as well as the security aspects. To the extent possible, however, humanitarian operations must be viewed separately since the key to success lay in keeping humanitarian issues above political considerations.

Answering the question from Brazil, he said that the negotiations were being conducted by the agencies themselves and cited impressive achievements in Yugoslavia, where the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), together with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) had successfully conducted negotiations on the question of access to emergency areas, and in Mozambique, where a major agreement had been reached with RENAMO, following the recent talks in Rome, at which the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) had participated, on his suggestion.

In response to the comments by the representative of the Netherlands, he reiterated the view he had expressed earlier to the Council that it was the

(Mr. Eliasson)

common responsibility of all Member States to ensure the effective implementation and follow-up of resolution 46/182, not only for the benefit of the victims, but also for the Organization to prove itself in the humanitarian, economic and social fields. In the case of Yugoslavia, he agreed that the mechanisms established by resolution 46/182, namely, the emergency relief coordinator, and the new Department of Humanitarian Affairs should play a key role. UNHCR had been given the lead agency role long before the creation of that Department, however, and was doing extremely valuable work in the affected area. An inter-agency mechanism would be set up to deal with the problem and, to that end, he was calling a meeting of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, immediately following the international conference on the refugee problem in Yugoslavia, which was to be held in Geneva at the end of July. That meeting might be followed by an inter-agency needs assessment mission or a consolidated appeal, using another instrument established under resolution 46/182, and he warned that the initial figures for the appeal for Yugoslavia, set in April 1992, would have to be considerably increased, in view of recent developments in that part of the world.

Finally, in response to the question put by Austria, he said that he hoped to report to the Council again later in the year, by which time an organizational chart of the new Department would have been prepared.

Mr. JUPPIN de FONDAUMIERE (United Nations International Drug Control Programme) said that illicit cultivation of and trafficking in narcotics in the Middle East remained a serious problem that should be addressed during the current reconstruction period in Lebanon. The International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) had undertaken a fact-finding mission in Lebanon in May 1992 and had visited the Bekaa valley. In the areas it had visited it had seen that all opium poppy crops had been eradicated. Due to the economic problems faced by the inhabitants of the area, an integrated programme was now greatly needed to promote development, create jobs and bring hope. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia was currently working on replacement of illicit crops in the Bekaa valley area. UNDCP would actively support efforts to assist farmers directly affected by that undertaking. It planned to

(Mr. Juppin de Fondaumière)

organize a meeting in Beirut, possibly by September 1992, with all agencies interested in follow-up action, and in the meantime was studying a cooperation programme aimed at the assessment of drug abuse, assistance in improving control of pharmaceutical products containing narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and strengthening the capacities of the Lebanese drug enforcement agencies.

Mr. ZUPANJEVAC (Yugoslavia) said that great strides had been made over the previous year in strengthening the Organization's potential to deal with natural and man-made disasters. Yet, paradoxically, that same year had seen human suffering and deprivation caused by war and natural catastrophes on an almost unprecedented scale. In particular, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the former republics of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia had formed the epicentre of the greatest humanitarian tragedy in Europe since the Second World War.

While the territory of the Federal Republic was not directly affected by the hostilities in the region, they had led to an overwhelming flow of refugees into the country. The harsh economic sanctions imposed by the Security Council had further exacerbated the economic situation in Yugoslavia, leading to large-scale poverty. The authorities were struggling to provide basic medical care and foodstuffs, the import and local production of which had been adversely affected by the sanctions.

The newly-elected Government of the Federal Republic had pledged to work for an immediate cease-fire in Bosnia and Herzegovina and to restore trust and cooperation between the Federal Republic and the newly-independent States created from the former Yugoslavia. To that end, it planned to conclude separate agreements with each of the new States addressing key issues of human and social rights. While an amnesty had been proposed, the Federal Republic refused to accept the so-called "ethnic cleansing" of certain territories and would do everything in its power, including the provision of humanitarian aid, to create the necessary conditions for refugees to return to their homes under conditions of personal safety. Finally, he expressed his delegation's full support for the proposed international conference in Geneva on the refugee situation in the region and pledged the readiness of his Government to do everything in its power to facilitate the Conference's work.

Mr. SIEBER (Observer for Switzerland) said that Switzerland welcomed the establishment of a post of coordinator for humanitarian emergencies at the Under-Secretary-General level and had contributed US$ 2 million to the Central Emergency Revolving Fund.

With respect to Yugoslavia, Switzerland fully supported the convening of an international conference on assistance to the victims to the conflict, and also endorsed the initiative of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs to organize an inter-agency meeting immediately after the conference.

In addition, Switzerland believed that aid efforts in the Horn of Africa should be better coordinated and suggested that the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs should convene an international coordination conference for that region as well, as a first step towards the future peace conference.

Mr. SEZAKI (Japan) recalled that his delegation had joined the consensus on General Assembly resolution 46/182, and he welcomed the measures undertaken in recent months to implement the resolution.

His Government had joined other concerned Governments in pledging a substantial amount to extend humanitarian assistance to those suffering from the effects of the severe drought in southern Africa.

Humanitarian assistance was needed in many parts of the world. Japan had studied with great interest the report of the Secretary-General concerning the capacity of the United Nations for preventive diplomacy, for peacemaking and for peace-keeping (A/46/277-S/24111), which explored how humanitarian assistance might lend itself to preventive deployment and to limiting or controlling violence. His delegation hoped that the emergency relief coordinator would further develop such efforts.

Humanitarian assistance activities should include prevention, preparedness, stand-by capacity, coordination, and rehabilitation and development. His Government's recent amendment of part of the Law related to the dispatch of Japanese disaster relief teams was pertinent to such activities and especially to the stand-by capacity; it would enable Japan to play a more active role by contributing personnel to international relief efforts.

(Mr. Sezaki, Japan)

His delegation was pleased with the various operational arrangements that had been made, and noted with particular satisfaction that the Central Emergency Revolving Fund had already reached its target of $50 million and was operational. The Government of Japan had contributed $5 million to the Fund and hoped that it would enable the United Nations to respond to humanitarian emergencies in a swift and timely manner.

Inter-agency cooperation was of the utmost importance in strengthening coordination capacity. Good cooperative relations had already been established under the emergency relief coordinator, who had demonstrated leadership in coordinating emergency operations, for example in the Horn of Africa, Iraq and Yugoslavia.

His Government supported the concept of consolidated appeals, and had responded positively to the consolidated appeals launched recently for Afghanistan, Yugoslavia and Kenya.

Mr. FRIIS (Observer for Denmark), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that during the past few years the world had witnessed a succession of natural and man-made disasters of unprecedented scope and complexity. The immense human suffering which such disasters caused underscored the obligation of the international community to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the delivery of humanitarian emergency assistance, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/182. The decision to establish a post of emergency relief coordinator within the United Nations Secretariat reflected a need for better coordination of operational activities and a conviction that United Nations action should be combined with political initiatives to facilitate humanitarian relief and long-term solutions to man-made emergencies. The Nordic countries pledged to support the new coordinator in his difficult task.

The Nordic delegations hoped that the remaining tasks in connection with the structural reorganization of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs would soon be completed and emphasized that the Department would be unable fully to meet expectations unless its resources were commensurate with the importance of its tasks.

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee was an important new instrument.

(Mr. Friis, Observer, Denmark)

However, if its objective of improved coordination was to be achieved, a spirit of genuine partnership, a deepened sense of responsibility and a clearer division of labour were required. The increased use of consolidated inter-agency appeals was a step in that direction. The importance of improved collaboration and coordination at the field level also must be fully appreciated. The attention given to the coordination of humanitarian assistance by the Governing Council of UNDP augured well as an indication that the necessary will and understanding did exist. The Economic and Social Council had an important function in reviewing progress with respect to coordination.

Wherever possible, humanitarian operations should be integrated with efforts to resolve the underlying causes of the particular crisis. The task of combining relief, rehabilitation and development remained a major challenge, and disaster prevention and preparedness must be integrated with overall development efforts.

The development of a central emergency response capacity of the United Nations system was a salient feature of improved coordination. Consideration should also be given to establishing a central international emergency stockpile, supplemented by small regional stockpiles. The new Central Emergency Revolving Fund should prove a useful new instrument at the disposal of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs.

The new system for providing humanitarian assistance and emergency relief would require the involvement of the United Nations, disaster-stricken countries, donors and governmental and non-governmental organizations. A small number of countries currently bore an unreasonably large share of the burden of financing United Nations humanitarian operations. Improved burden-sharing also was a matter of fairness, the importance of which should not be underestimated when it came to maintaining domestic political support in countries which were substantial donors. Most developed countries should contribute more. It was disappointing that the new Fund had received hardly any contributions from developing countries.

In view of the need to ensure that humanitarian aid was provided as efficiently as possible to all who were affected, political motives must not

(Mr. Friis, Observer, Denmark)

be allowed to prevent Governments and other parties from ensuring access to all those in need.

In general, non-governmental organizations had adapted well to the new challenges of providing humanitarian relief in an efficient and coordinated manner. Their valuable competence and experience in providing a quick and cost-effective response remained an essential complement to the activities of governmental and intergovernmental organizations.

Mr. KUDRYAVTSEV (Russian Federation) said that Russia had welcomed the structural reforms in the field of United Nations emergency humanitarian assistance, which reflected the Organization's growing authority and importance in that area. The new Department of Humanitarian Affairs should make efforts to eliminate duplication and to develop channels for the mutually beneficial exchange of experience.

With the incorporation of the United Nations Disaster Relief Organization (UNDRO) into the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, his delegation believed that the Department should be actively involved not only in efforts to eliminate the consequences of disasters but also in measures to prevent them. The goals of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction should be attained through close cooperation between the Secretariat and the Centre for Emergency Environmental Assistance currently being established.

At the national level, Russia was reorganizing its own structures to ensure a more effective response to emergencies, through such measures as the establishment of appropriate state bodies, the organization of seminars and the conclusion of bilateral agreements with other countries. He hoped that Russian experts would be invited to participate in emergency projects and programmes of the United Nations and to join international expert groups. The new State Committee dealing with emergencies and natural disasters and the Russian Space Agency could both play an important role in that regard. The Agency could provide, on a commercial basis, remote sensing services related to natural disasters and communication links between emergency missions and headquarters. In addition, Russia was prepared to organize a seminar on the monitoring of volcanoes and the planning of preventive measures as part of its contribution to the work of UNDRO.

(Mr. Kudryavtsev, Russian Federation)

The support pledged to his country at the recent conferences in Washington and Lisbon, held with the participation of the Secretariat, UNDP, UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other agencies, bore witness to the positive changes in global relations and multilateral cooperation and Russia looked forward to the practical implementation of the decisions taken at those conferences, particularly with regard to the transition from programmes of an emergency nature to medium- and long-term cooperation projects and programmes.

Mr. MAHMOUD (Observer for Lebanon), highlighting portions of the report of the Secretary-General on assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon (A/47/291-E/1992/95), noted that the encouraging economic results of 1991 had not been sustainable during the current year and that the social unrest generated by the further depreciation of the Lebanese pound had prompted the new Government to put the economic and financial crisis at the top of its agenda. The rehabilitation of basic infrastructure and public services, the reorganization of the administration and the health-care system, the planning and reconstruction of the education sector and the adoption of measures to assist some 500,000 displaced persons were just a few examples of the formidable challenges facing the Government. As the report pointed out in paragraph 12, "recent investment performance in the public sector [was] not commensurate in any way with the vast needs of immediate rehabilitation".

His delegation welcomed the appointment of the Resident Coordinator. The latter's efforts to establish a coherent framework for enhanced coordination among United Nations agencies, the upgrading of existing agencies and the expansion of their presence at Beirut, the needs assessment missions which had been sent during the preceding year and the agencies' contribution to national reconstruction planning efforts. He hoped that the technical cooperation programme to sensitize donors and mobilize resources through an international campaign would meet with a positive response. The active involvement of United Nations agencies in the reconstruction effort was an important factor in the Government's reconstruction and development policies. His delegation also hoped that the Secretary-General's Trust Fund for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon would receive much-needed financial support.

(Mr. Mahmoud, Observer, Lebanon)

The Government and people of Lebanon appreciated the assistance extended by donor countries, the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations. They commended the achievements of the various agencies.

His delegation welcomed the information provided earlier by the representative of UNDCP. Lebanon was now in a position to assign high priority to the eradication of drug-related crops. The success of its efforts would depend on regional and international support to enable it to expand its authority throughout its territory, bearing in mind the complexity of the problem in the Middle East. Vigorous assistance from and contributions by donor countries and the United Nations system would be needed to help his Government address the social and economic situation in areas where drug-producing plants were cultivated illegally and to create suitable alternatives for farmers in those regions, which were the least developed in the country. Efforts along those lines during the early 1970s had been very successful.

Mr. ROBLES (Mexico) expressed his appreciation of the work done by UNDRO, particularly in the area of prevention and training activities, which had made it possible to respond more quickly and efficiently to disasters.

General Assembly resolution 46/182 preserved the balance between the developing countries' legitimate concerns regarding sovereignty and the need to deliver assistance promptly and effectively.

The integrated focus of that resolution would ensure that humanitarian assistance was not limited to relief alone. Prevention of calamities was even more important. Another positive development was the concept of the continuum of humanitarian activities, from relief to rehabilitation to development as a whole.

Although availability of resources was a decisive element in coping with disasters, the will and preparedness of Governments and societies that might be affected by such events was also most important. In that context, the United Nations had encouraged the creation of coordinating committees at the national level, and a special high-level committee for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction; such actions, together with an adequate and timely international response, would no doubt help mitigate the effects of such disasters.

PROGRAMME AND RELATED QUESTIONS (A/46/6 (Prog. 25-Prog. 27 and Prog. 29-Prog. 35), A/47/16, Part I)

Mr. DUVAL (Programme Planning and Budget Division) said that the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 were the first to be prepared. The final version of the plan incorporating all the modifications adopted by the General Assembly had been issued early in 1991 as document A/45/6/Rev.1 (volumes I and II). The proposed revisions modified the text of the relevant programmes contained in that document. The purpose of the revisions was to incorporate any development or mandates which had arisen since the adoption of the plan and to make necessary adjustments so that it could provide a framework for the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. Consequently, the primary focus of the revisions was the subprogramme narratives updating legislative mandates and presenting objectives and strategies. In the case of programmes or subprogrammes for which no revisions were proposed, the current priorities and activities would continue to apply in 1994-1995.

He recalled that the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) had decided to consider the proposed revisions to the plan at both parts of its thirty-second session in order to enable the Secretariat to incorporate any programme changes stemming from the two recent conferences on trade and development and on environment and development and the restructuring of the Secretariat. Accordingly, CPC had already considered revisions to programmes 25-27 and 29-34, and would consider the remaining substantive programmes for which it was competent in September.

Two aspects of the revisions to the 10 programmes proposed for consideration by the Council warranted comment. Firstly, with respect to the consultative process with specialized reviewing bodies, he said that revisions to programmes 27 and 29-32 had been submitted to the relevant reviewing bodies. Revisions to the other programmes had not been reviewed because the relevant body was not meeting that year (in the case of programmes 25 and 26), the scheduled meeting had been cancelled (programme 34) or the Secretariat had not been in a position to submit the revisions (programmes 33 and 35). Only two reviewing bodies (those of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and

(Mr. Duval)

the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)) had made specific recommendations, which had been incorporated to the extent possible in the revisions to programmes 30 and 31, respectively. The recommendations of ECA appeared in a corrigendum to document A/47/6 (Prog. 30) and those of ESCAP had been incorporated in document A/47/6 (Prog. 31).

The other three reviewing bodies had not made specific recommendations. Although the review process by the Economic Commission for Europe was not yet completed, most of the observations and recommendations by the Commission's subsidiary body had been incorporated in the revised programme 32. The new Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice had adopted a resolution referring to the revisions proposed to programme 29.

Secondly, with regard to the scope of the revisions, he said that the revisions proposed for programme 31 (Regional cooperation for development in Asia and the Pacific) and programme 32 (Regional cooperation for development in Europe) involved extensive changes in the number, titles, content and/or ordering of the subprogrammes. In the case of ESCAP, the changes responded to the adoption of a thematic approach to the work programme of the Commission and to the streamlining of its intergovernmental machinery. In the case of the Economic Commission for Europe, the modifications responded to the recent changes which had occurred in central and eastern Europe and to the new role the Commission would play, inter alia, in assisting the countries in transition in those subregions in their efforts towards integration into the European and global economies.

The revisions proposed for programme 29 (Crime prevention and criminal justice) involved one additional subprogramme and substantive changes to the narratives of the existing three subprogrammes, in line with the programme of action recommended by the ministerial meeting held in Paris in 1991 and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/152.

The revisions proposed for programme 34 (Regional cooperation for development in Western Asia) reflected the recommendations made by an intergovernmental meeting organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in February. The revisions proposed for the other six programmes were less extensive.

(Mr. Duval)

The report of CPC on the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan was contained in paragraphs 45-113 of document A/47/16 (part I). In accordance with the recommendations of CPC, further revisions to programmes 30 and 33 and adjustments to some narratives under programme 32 would be submitted to CPC for consideration at the second part of its thirty-second session.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS A MODALITY IN THE FORMULATION, PREPARATION, EXECUTION AND EVALUATION OF THE PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS (continued)

Draft resolution on Technical cooperation among developing countries (E/1992/L.29)

Ms. KELLY (Secretary of the Council) drew attention to a typographical error in the draft resolution: in the first subheading below the title the asterisk for the footnote "On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77" should be next to the word "Pakistan" rather than "China".

Ms. JANJUA (Pakistan), in introducing the draft resolution, reaffirmed the validity of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action recognizing technical cooperation among developing countries as an effective tool for the implementation of programmes through the use of the relevant experience and expertise of those countries. She called on all parties to support the use of that modality, since from the point of view of developing countries it was of great importance.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Draft decision on Participation of intergovernmental organizations in the work of the Economic and Social Council (E/1992/L.27)

The PRESIDENT said that unless he heard some objection he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the draft decision.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.